local herbalcosmetics. After the expiry of the date, such products should be compulsorily destroyed because a new label might be fixed on the packing after the expiry of date...

MR. SPEAKER: Instead of asking questions, she is giving a lecture...

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: One thing more As per the requirement of Section 26 of 1986 Act, earlier the inspectors used to examine it but after the new Amendment came into force, all the recognised consumer associations have been given the powers on initiating investigation and prosecution for a prescribed fee. As such I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any action has been taken in the cases which have come to their notice and what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government against those who are using spurious chemicals? Do the Government propose to make the mention of expiry date mandatory?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: I would like to tell hon. Dubeyji that mention of expiry date in this regard is not at all required and the ingredients used in this are not harmful for health or from any other angle because....

AN HON. MEMBER: How do you know that?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: This is what I have been told. I am also getting the suggestions given by you in this regard examined

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that in his reply to part (A) of the question as to whether the use of cosmetics after their date of expiry is harmful for skin and body, the Minister has replied in negative. But opinion of skin specialists in this regard is a bit different as it says that such cosmetics are highly injurious to skin and body. Does the Government propose to undertake further investigation in this regard?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: For what?

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Does the Government propose to get it examined whether such items are injurious to skin and body?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: As regards eye make up, we have clearly mentioned as to what ingredients can be used to prepare such cosmetic items and what percentage of flouride should contain a toothpaste. For the rest of the things, there is no such requirement.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: At least on gentlemen should ask the question. Shri Vijay Naval Patil.

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Sir, now-a-days gents are also using cosmetics. As the nature has it, ladies have more resistance to diseases upto a certain age when they use these cosmetics. The cosmetics which are not harmful to the ladies because of their resistance capacity may be harmful to gents. Will the hon. Minister make it a point to ask the manufacturers to write 'Only for ladies' on the products?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: We have asked the manufacturers on a particular type of soap that this will not be used for the babies. I do not think it is necessary for other things I do not think that a person like you or me will use the cosmetics

"Seminar on Environment"

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*476. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar was organised by

the Centre for Science and Environment (C. S. E.) in New Delhi on February 17, 1992 to evolve a common stand on the UN Conference on Environment and Development scheduled to be held in June, 1992;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made at the seminar; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi, had organised a Conference of South Asian Non-Government Organisations at New Delhi from 17 to 19th February, 1992 to discuss the agenda of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, which is to be held in June, 1992.

(b) A copy of the Statement of the Conference, circulated by the organisers, has been placed in the Library of Parliament for ready reference.

(c) Government have taken note to the aforesaid Statement.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Sir, I have not gone through the Statement, referred by the hon. Minister, which has been kept in the library. However, I am putting my supplementary. What is India's stand on global consensus on saving the sick Planet Earth to be taken up at the ensuing Conference in June and act collectively to stave off the global decay of environment?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, the normal method in which we evolve a decision on this issue and go for the Conference for negotiations is that we hear the non-government organisations and their view-points. The decisions of the Conference will be communicated to us. Thereafter we form our basic decision. With regard to the 'Earth Chapter and Agenda 21', we have indicated that we would be looking at the 'Main responsibility' for global environmental degradation and say that this would be really that of the developed countries, who must take the necessary corrective actions by modifying consumption patterns and lifestyles. We have also said that developing countries can participate in global action, but not at the cost of their own development effort. They require additional financial resources and transfer of technology. Freshwater availability and quality and land defraudation and desertification should receive global attention. Environmental standards should not be harmonized at the global level. New environmental conditionalities in aid or trade should not be imposed. In Agenda 21 we may consider accepting time-bound targets for various environment indicators provided the resources required are quantified and clearly identified.

I would also like to add that we have indicated our mind that normally when the Government goes to these Conferences - especially of this nature - we do not finalise our stand totally and reveal our total hand because it is a matter of negotiations at that time.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether a new uncertainty is haunting the June Summit. If so, what is India's reading of the situations?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, there is no real answer to it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the stand to be taken by the Government of India in the ensuing conference of non Governmentl organisations on Environment and Development to

be held in June, 1992 and the action proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure its implemention?

MR. SPEAKER: He has just now replied to that point.

[*English*]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I have already given the details.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA: Sir, the question refers to a Seminar that was held in the middle of February by non-governmental organisations and the Government took a stand there. But in a fast changing world, Sir, I would like to know whether, since that time the Government has been thinking of changing its stand on one of the most controversial issues which are going to be discussed at the earth summit, namely, the Global, Environmental Facilities which India has always opposed because it is considered to have a donor dominated bias; and as such detrimental to both development and environment protection in developing countries. Now, I want to know whether the Government has since that time, been considering a change in this position of opposition to the Global Environmental Facility or not.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, firstly I would like to clarify te the hon. Member through you that the Government did not take any stand in the Seminar.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA: It has already taken a stand, but whether it is changing its stand or not is the question. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. We will rely upon what he says in the House.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: If I clarify - - the statement is specific - - the Government did not take a stand in the Seminar if you are asking, and with regard to whether the Government is changing it stand on the question of the global approach or the global facility, I would like to make it clear that we are hearing the various organisations which are coming forward with their issues, we have not taken any decision to change our stand at all in this regard.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATACHARAYA: Does that mean that they are thinking of changing their approach?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Until we change, there is no question of change.

SHRI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA: Have they any approach?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Yes, we have the approach, the approach still stand.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minster whether it is not a fact that the Government is being pressurised by the Minister of Finance and the Ministry of External Affairs in the backdrop of the latest developments and the changes in the Government policy in both these areas that the Environment Minister who has made a commitment to this House itself that the timing of the Montreal Treaty and also the Government's identify with the G-77 countries in this regard is going to be changed because of the pressure being exerted by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of External Affairs?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I want to make it clear that the global environment facility is really a financial mechanism with the World Bank. And if you want further clarification in this issue, I would like to have a separate notice because I would need more information.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA: Sir, we want a full-scale dicussion on

this because it is a very important issue (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER Question No 477

[*Translation*]

Computer Literacy and Studies

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*477 DR MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA
SHRI JAGMIT SINGH

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether a scheme for Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools was launched in 1984,

(b) if so, the number of schools where this project was launched,

(c) the expenditure incurred so far on its implementation,

(d) the number of schools where this scheme is still continuing, and

(e) whether the Government propose to seek the cooperation of private sector in this regard?

*[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) In 1984-85 248 schools were covered

(c) Rs 38 34 crores

(d) 2598 schools

(e) In the Review of the Project a question has arisen whether setting up an integrated input delivery system by involving agencies in the private sector having expertise in Computer Education would result in a more effective implementation of the Project The issue is being examined and no final decision has been taken

DR MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA Mr Speaker, Sir, while launching the pilot project regarding computer education in 1984-85 the Government had announced that this project would be implemented in this entire country However, the date furnished by the Hon Minister in this regard State that merely 248 schools have been covered under this project and a total amount of Rs 38 34 crores has been incurred on it Mr Speaker, Sir, in this context, I would like to know from the hon Minister the number of schools statewise and district wise which have been covered under it and the number of students statewise who are receiving computer education in these schools

SHRI ARJUN SINGH Sir, I can give information in this regard, provided a separate notice is given for it

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Rise in Prices of Books

*472 SHRI UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL
SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether there has been a steep rise in the prices of academic books,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor,